

Eye on the Goal

Christmas Stories – Part 2

Life Church St. Louis – December 16, 2018

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

James 5:17 (ESV) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

1 Corinthians 9:24 (ESV) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

Acts 17:26-27 (ESV) And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

1 Chronicles 28:9b (ESV) ... the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.

1. Decide to be a _____

Matthew 2:1-2 (ESV) Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Numbers 24:17 (ESV) I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

Matthew 7:7 (ESV) "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

2. Expect _____ in your journey

Matthew 2:3 (ESV) When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

3. Anticipate supernatural _____

Matthew 2:9-10 (ESV) After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Psalms 32:8 (ESV) I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

4. Understand the goal is _____

Matthew 2:11a (ESV) And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

Philippians 3:8 (ESV) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

5. Give your life in _____

Matthew 2:11b (ESV) Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Action Plan for This Week

Have a daily quiet time of Bible reading & prayer.
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Invite a friend to the service next Sunday.

How will I obey God's Word this week? _____

Eye on the Goal Study Guide

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Intro. Why is it hard to realize that Bible characters are people just like us (James 5:17)?

Why is it important in life to be focused on the prize at the end of life's race (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)?

What was God's purpose in creating people and determining where and when they live (Acts 17:26-27)?

In what ways is seeking God a lifelong pursuit (1 Chronicles 28:9b)?

1A. What do you think motivated the wise men to journey to worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1-2, Numbers 24:17)?

1B. How does Jesus' promise in Matthew 7:7 relate to seeking to know Him?

1C. What kinds of things do people seek in their lives other than Jesus?

2A. Why was Herod troubled about the wise men's quest (Matthew 2:3)?

2B. Why do unbelievers persecute believers (2 Timothy 3:12)?

2C. In what ways does fear of "persecution" hinder believers in America from seeking God and being a witness?

3A. What facts in Matthew 2:9-10 indicate that the star was a supernatural angelic appearance rather than an astronomical phenomenon?

3B. Why should we expect supernatural guidance in our lives (Psalm 32:8)?

4A. What lessons can we learn from the wise men's worship of Jesus (Matthew 2:11a)?

4B. What does Paul's statement in Philippians 3:8 tell us about the importance of seeking Christ?

4C. In what way does everyone worship something or someone? Why do people worship the wrong things?

5A. What does the Magi giving treasures to Jesus teach us about worship (Matthew 2:11b)?

5B. What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)? How can you do that on a daily basis?